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ENVELOPE

CDSN = CFS337 MCN = 98073/05770 TOR = 980730404
RTTUZYUW RUEKJCS6906 0730404-UUUU--RUEALGX.
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R 140404Z MAR 98
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RHFPAAA/UTAI RAMSTEIN AB GE
RHHJMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/USCINPAC HONOLULU HI//J2CD/J5//
RUEDAEA/NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH
RUCBAIC/LANTCOM IDHS NORFOLK VA
RUDMQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR INTEL VAIHINGEN GE//DIA REP//
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR INTEL VAIHINGEN GE
RUHPQUA/COMTHIRDFLT
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//CC/DOA//
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 130910Z MAR 98
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4778
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:ISA/DPMO:ICSD//
INFO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/[REDACTED] (b) (3)
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OJCS-PW/MIA/J5//
RUHEMAD/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//JO1//
RUHVAAA/COMMCEN HICKAM AFB HI//USACILHI//
RUAGFKC/CINC UNC CFC SEOUL KOR
RUFDGDU/DIRECTOR MARSHALL CENTER GARMISCH GE//ECMC-ES//
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV 5529
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK 3081
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 2899
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY 5022
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 9909
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 2188
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 9608
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0294
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 0200
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 0202
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU 1720
RUEHLN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG 6005
RUEHYG/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG 3742
RUEHVK/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK 4190

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS MOSCOW 006065

DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA AND EAP

E.O. 12958: N/A

BODY

TAGS: KPOW, MOPS, PREL, PHUM, PINR, RS

SUBJECT: JCSD-MOSCOW INTERVIEW WITH MOLDOVAN
ACADEMIC SEMEN ALEKSEYEVICH GORTYNICH

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 4-9, 1998, JOINT COMMISSION SUPPORT DIRECTORATE (JCSD)- MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES RICHARD HARRISON AND DANZ BLASSER TRAVELED TO MOLDOVA TO PURSUE LEADS CONCERNING THE KOREAN WAR. THERE THEY MET WITH MOLDOVAN ACADEMIC SEMEN ALEKSEYEVICH GORTYNICH, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD ACCESS TO THE MOLDOVAN KGB ARCHIVES. GORTYNICH WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING KOREAN WAR POWS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 9, 1998, JOINT COMMISSION SUPPORT DIRECTORATE (JCSD)-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES RICHARD HARRISON AND DANZ BLASSER MET WITH SEMEN ALEKSEYEVICH GORTYNICH, A LOCAL ACADEMIC WITH EXPERIENCE IN WORKING IN THE MOLDOVAN KGB. GORTYNICH WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING KOREAN WAR POWS. GORTYNICH (CHISINAU 277044, STRADA OLEKO RUSSO 55, APT. 299 ; TEL: 0422-33-99-51) WAS BORN IN THE VILLAGE OF VESELIY, IN MOLDOVA, IN 1935. HE RECEIVED HIS DEGREE IN HISTORY FROM CHISINAU STATE UNIVERSITY IN 1965. HE RECEIVED HIS DOCTORAL DEGREE IN HISTORY IN 1985, THROUGH THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTE OF THE MOLDAVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. HE WORKED IN THE STATE ARCHIVES FOR TEN YEARS, BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE MOLDAVIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. HE WORKED THERE UNTIL 1991. THAT YEAR HE BEGAN WORKING FOR THE STATE ARCHIVE SERVICE, WHICH OVERSEES THE COUNTRY'S ARCHIVES. HE HAS BEEN RETIRED SINCE 1996. GORTYNICH SPEAKS FLUENT RUSSIAN AND ROMANIAN.

3. GORTYNICH SAID THAT HIS PAST WORK ON THE WORLD WAR II RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN WHAT WAS SOVIET MOLDAVIA HAD BROUGHT HIM INTO CONTACT WITH KGB DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE LONGER HAD

ACCESS TO THESE ARCHIVES AND WOULD HAVE TO START THE PROCESS OF GETTING PERMISSION ANEW. HE SAID THAT HE MIGHT GET ACCESS AGAIN, DEPENDING ON THE AREA OF STUDY AND ITS PURPOSE. HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL TIGHTENING UP OF ACCESS, AS OPPOSED TO THE EARLY 1990S.

4. GORTYNICH SAID THAT IT WAS HIS PROFESSIONAL OPINION THAT THE MOLDOVAN KGB ARCHIVES WOULD NOT HAVE ANY MATERIAL OF INTEREST TO JCSD. HE ADDED THAT ANY MATERIALS RELATING TO U.S. POWS FROM KOREA WOULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED IN MOSCOW, AND THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO REASON TO KEEP THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES INFORMED.

5. GORTYNICH CONTINUES TO PURSUE HIS ACADEMIC INTERESTS, EVEN IN RETIREMENT. HE SAID THAT IF HE DID COME ACROSS ANY SUCH INFORMATION, HE WOULD INFORM JCSD.

6. GORTYNICH DID REMEMBER SEEING SOME INFORMATION ON SHOT DOWN U.S. AVIATORS FROM WORLD WAR II. HE WAS UNABLE TO REMEMBER SPECIFICS, BUT BELIEVES THAT THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION WAS ROMANIAN, AND THAT IT POSSIBLY DEALT WITH THE U.S. BOMBING ATTACKS ON THE PLOESTI OILFIELDS.

7. JOINT COMMISSION SUPPORT DIRECTORATE-MOSCOW
SENDS. TEFFT

ADMIN

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#6906

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